Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Applicant: Donald J. Palmer et al.
Serial No.: 09/685,847
Filed: Oct. 10, 2000
Docket No.: 10003972-1
Title: INTERNET PRINT MANAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH PRINT JOB DISTRIBUTION

IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of managing print services provided by a print provider, the method comprising:

defining a network communication link between the print provider and a print managing system controller;

presenting the print provider with a print provider interface, including presenting the print provider with input fields for specifying attributes of the print services provided thereby;

registering the print services provided by the print provider with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface and the network communication link, including specifying the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider with the input fields of the print provider interface;

receiving a job ticket for a print job at the print managing system controller;

determining via the print managing system controller if the print provider has the print services to fulfill the print job, including comparing the job ticket for the print job with the print services provided by the print provider; and

distributing the job ticket for the print job to the print provider via the network communication link if the print managing system controller determines that the print provider has the print services to fulfill the print job.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the network communication link includes defining an Internet communication link between the print provider and the print managing system controller, and wherein distributing the job ticket for the print job includes distributing the job ticket for the print job to the print provider via the Internet communication link.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the job ticket includes receiving the job ticket for the print job via the network communication link.

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4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the job ticket
includes receiving the job ticket for the print job from a customer.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein defining the network
communication link includes defining the network communication link between the print
provider, the customer, and the print managing system controller, and wherein receiving the
job ticket includes receiving the job ticket for the print job from the customer via the network
communication link.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the job ticket
includes receiving the job ticket for the print job from another print provider.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein defining the network
communication link includes defining the network communication link between the print
provider, the other print provider, and the print managing system controller, and wherein
receiving the job ticket includes receiving the job ticket for the print job from the other print
provider via the network communication link.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the job ticket
includes receiving at least one of a file format, a number of copies, a print medium, a printing
layout, a printing quality option, a color printing option, a finishing option, a delivery option,
and a customer identification for the print job.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
        associating a data file for the print job with the job ticket for the print job, wherein
distributing the job ticket includes distributing the job ticket and the data file to the print
provider via the network communication link.

10.   (Cancelled)

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11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the print services includes storing the print services provided by the print provider and wherein comparing the job ticket includes retrieving the print services provided by the print provider.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the print services includes registering a printing capability of the print provider with the print managing system controller.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the print services includes registering at least one of a file format compatibility, a print medium capability, a printing layout capability, a printing quality capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a delivery capability, and an identification of the print provider.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the print services includes updating the print services provided by the print provider when the print services provided by the print provider are modified.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein distributing the job ticket is performed by the print managing system controller.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein distributing the job ticket includes redistributing the job ticket for the print job to another print provider having print services to fulfill the print job when the print provider is unable to fulfill the print job.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
          completing the print job with the print services provided by the print provider; and
          delivering the print job.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
          tracking a status of the print job with the job ticket for the print job.

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19.   (Previously Presented) A system for managing print services provided by a print

provider, the system comprising:

        a print managing system controller; and

        a print provider interface communicated with the print managing system controller,

the print provider interface including input fields for specifying attributes of the print services

provided by the print provider,

        wherein the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider are specified

with the input fields of the print provider interface and the print services provided by the print

provider are registered with the print managing system controller via the print provider

interface,

        wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to receive a job ticket for a

print job and compare the job ticket with the print services provided by the print provider to

determine if the print provider has the print services to fulfill the print job, and

        wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to distribute the job ticket for

the print job to the print provider if the print managing system controller determines that the

print provider has the print services to fulfill the print job.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is

configured to communicate with the print provider via a network communication link, and

wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to distribute the job ticket for the

print job to the print provider via the network communication link.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the network communication link is an

Internet communication link.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is

adapted to receive the job ticket for the print job via a network communication link.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the network communication link is an

Internet communication link.

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24.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to receive the job ticket for the print job from a customer.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the print managing system controller is configured to communicate with the customer via a network communication link, and wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to receive the job ticket for the print job from the customer via the network communication link.

26.   (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the network communication link is an Internet communication link.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to receive the job ticket for the print job from another print provider.

28.   (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the print managing system controller is configured to communicate with the other print provider via a network communication link, and wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to receive the job ticket for the print job from the other print provider via the network communication link.

29.   (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the network communication link is an Internet communication link.

30.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the job ticket for the print job includes at least one of a file format, a number of copies, a print medium, a printing layout, a printing quality option, a color printing option, a finishing option, a delivery option, and an identification for the print job.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to receive a data file for the print job, and wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to distribute the job ticket and the data file to the print provider via a network communication link.

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32.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the network communication link is an Internet communication link.

33.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the print services provided by the print provider are registered with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface and a network communication link.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the network communication link is an Internet communication link.

35.   (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising:
        a print managing data storage system configured to communicate with the print managing system controller, wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to store a registration of the print services provided by the print provider in the print managing data storage system.

36.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print services provided by the print provider include a printing capability of the print provider.

37.   (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the printing capability of the print provider includes at least one of a file format capability, a print medium capability, a printing layout capability, a printing quality capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a delivery capability, and an identification of the print provider.

38.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print services provided by the print provider are updated in the print managing system controller when the print services provided by the print provider are modified.

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to redistribute the job ticket for the print job to another print provider

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having print services to fulfill the print job when the print provider is unable to fulfill the print job.

40.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to track a status of the print job with the job ticket for the print job.

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